

November 2016

**NET MIGRATION RATE, MIGRATION STOCKS
(ORIGIN, DESTINATIONS AND GENDER) AND
GDP PER CAPITA: THE CASES OF NORWAY,
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**NET MIGRATION RATE, MIGRATION STOCKS (ORIGIN,
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RHOMIR S. YANQUILING

Overview

This paper presents a brief analysis, discussion and interpretation I formulated relative to the net migration rate, Gross Domestic Product Per Capita and migration destinations of three countries drawn from three different income categories, to wit: Norway (high-income country), the Philippines (middle-income country) and Somalia (low-income country).

The first part of this paper contains a discussion on the description, analysis and interpretation of the net migration rate, Norwegian migration origin and destinations and the Gross Domestic Products per capita (1950-2010) of Norway vis-à-vis its net migration rate. The second and third sections of the paper deal with the same pattern of discussion and presentation in the Philippines and Somalian cases respectively. Finally, the last part presents the conclusions drawn out of the data discussion, analysis and interpretation.

Highlighted in the discussion of these three countries are the discernible patterns in their net migration rates from 190-2015, the migration origin and destinations of the three subject countries and a corresponding inquiry and discussion on the rationale, motive and causes behind such origin and destinations, and the countries' GDP from 1950 to 2010 and a corresponding inquiry, discussion and interpretation into the possible correlation of the GDP into their net migration rates.

The data used in this paper are those which were provided by the United Nations, Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

The Case of Norway

In my standpoint of view, Norway is a fit and apt choice to represent high-income country category for the purpose of this analysis and discussion for a good number of reasons. First, it has the 4th highest per capita income in the world. It also has the

highest Human Development Index from 2001 to 2006, and then again from 2010 to 2015. Moreover, for seven years straight, it has consistently topped the Legatum Prosperity Index. Finally, it is ranked first in the OECD Better Life Index, the Index of Public Integrity and the Democracy Index (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Norway>).

(A) The Net Migration Rate of Norway (1950-2015): Analysis and Interpretation

The data in Table 1 below, which were extracted out of the MS Excel file (File MIGR/1) of the United Nations, aptly present the net migration rate of Norway from 1950-2015.

Table 1 Net Migration Rate of Norway (1950-2015)

Selected Country	Net Migration Rate (1950-2015)												
	1950	1955	1960	1965	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1955	1960	1965	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015
Norway	-0.2	-0.5	-0.1	0.7	1.5	1.0	1.2	1.8	2.2	2.7	3.0	7.3	9.3

It can be deduced from Table 1 that Norway has a negative net migration rate from 1950 to 1965. From a net migration rate of -0.2 in 1950-1955, it increased to -0.5 after five years (1955-1960). The figure again drops to -0.1 from 1960-1965.

Apparently, such negative migration rate occurred within the next two decades after the Second World War. The figures suggest that within the next ten (10) to fifteen (15) years after the war, there are more people who are leaving Norway than entering it. This can be explained by the fact that difficult times took place in Norway immediately after the war. We can assume that by the end of the war, German occupation had reduced Norway's economic capacity substantially. Moreover, we can only imagine the physical and

patrimonial toll of the war itself. Such difficulty caused some Norwegians to rethink their economic and material conditions and find a better place for themselves under the sun, much better than they were presently situated then. It is also interesting to mention here that history repeats itself in these post-war years phenomenon. Particularly in the 19th century, when economic conditions were difficult in Norway, tens of thousands of people migrated to the United States and Canada, where they could work and buy land in frontier areas.

From 1965 to 2015, Norway ceased to be a sending country. At this point in time, it has become a receiving country. Norway registered a positive net migration rate, starting with 0.7 in 1965-1970 to 9.3 in 2015. In a span of 50 years, Norway's migration rate has increased by tenfolds. This means that there are approximately ten times more people who entered Norway than who leave the country. In fact, Norway's net immigration has increased considerably and has become the major source of population increase, far exceeding that of natural increase as shown in Figure 1 below, the data of which were drawn from Table 1. Here migration has accounted for the majority of population growth over the past twenty-five years. According to *Statistics Norway*, the immigrant population constitutes 16.3 percent of the population in Norway.

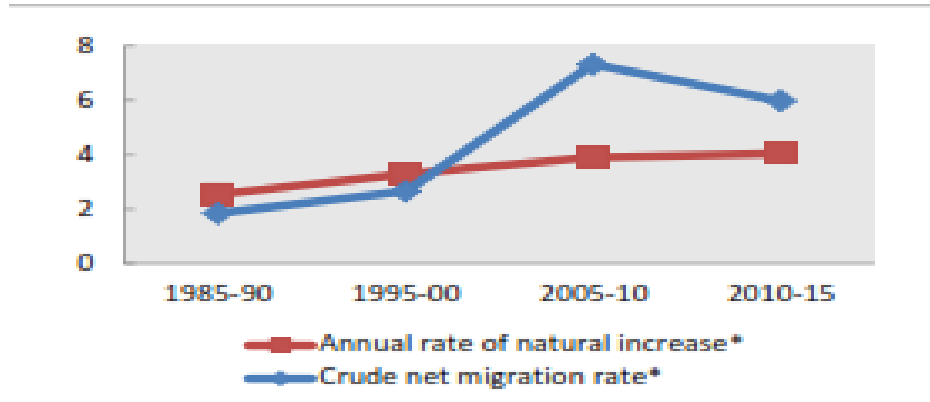


Figure 1: Net Migration Rate vs Natural Increase of Population of Norway

There are several explanations behind this increase in the net migration rate of Norway starting from 1965 to the present.

The first reason is economic in nature. It has something to do with the country's impressive economic growth and development. This can be deduced from the country's performance in terms of the Gross Domestic Product per capita from 196-2015. Norway's economic conditions has started to become better from the 1960s until it reached its current strong economic prosperity which is considered to be among the best, if not the best among the OECD countries. Factors such as economic prosperity, better material welfare, high standard of living, high human development index make Norway a very attractive destinations to migrants from the different parts of the world. The wage differential component of the Neo-Classical Microeconomic theory of migration explains that such income differences between Norway and other countries have the expected impact, as do differences in income distributions. The labour market situation in Norway has also been important. Lower unemployment in Norway has resulted in higher immigration.

The second reason is policy matter in character. From 1965, Norway had a fairly liberal set of regulations on immigration. The important changes following from the Norwegian entry into the EEA agreement in 1994 is particularly important, as is the Norwegian membership in the Schengen agreement and the impact of the subsequent increased membership in the EU. From 2000 to 2010 several changes linked to the EU influenced immigration to Norway. Norway's membership in the European Economic Area (EEA) from 1994 resulted in simpler immigration procedures for citizens of non-Nordic EU member countries. The Schengen agreement of 2001 did result in higher immigration, and the 2004 enlargement of EU did increase labour immigration to Norway substantially, later also family related immigration (<http://ssb.no/en/befolkning/artikler-og-publikasjoner/effects-of-immigration-policies-on-immigration-to-norway-1969-2010>).

It should be noted here however, that from a positive net migration rate of 1.5 in 1970-1975, the figure dropped to 1.0 in 1975-1980. This can be attributed to the passing of a restrictive immigration policy of Norway in the 1970s particularly in 1971 and 1977. In 1971, an immigration regulation was introduced which requires the immigrant had to have obtained a job and a place to live before receiving a residence permit. As a temporary measure in 1974 and permanently from 1975 an "immigration halt" was introduced. The more restrictive policies that were introduced in the 1970s did reduce immigration to Norway from 1970-1975 to 1975-1980. According to Wanner (2012), the immigration policy which defines how open a country is for immigration is particularly important in the coming decades considering Europe's current demographic development

(<http://ssb.no/en/befolkning/artikler-og-publikasjoner/effects-of-immigration-policies-on-immigration-to-norway-1969-2010>).

The liberalisation that implicitly was implemented with Norway joining the European Economic Area in 1994 may be an important consideration or factor to a consistently increasing net migration rate. Norwegian membership of the Schengen-area increased European immigration. When the EU was enlarged in both 2004 and 2007 these events led to significantly higher immigration. Apparently, this justification affirms the proposition of the World System Theory of Migration, which according to Massey (1993), sees migration as a natural consequence of economic globalisation and markets transcending national borders.

B. Migrant and Refugee Stock By Origin and Destination

B.1. Migrant Stock by Country of Origin

It can be gleaned from Table 2 below that immigration in Norway in 2013 can be described as more of an *interregional migration* since the top five countries which immigrate to Norway are within the Schengen area, namely Poland, Sweden, Germany, Denmark and Lithuania. Notably, the migrant stock of Norway in terms of country of origin has not changed much since 1990 and through 2000.

It is interesting to note that the majority of these sending countries to Norway are likewise receiving countries. Considering that they have similar business cycles, economic structure and relative and comparable GDP per capita standing, one can safely assume that the inflow and outflow of both labour and capital among them is equal.

Table 2

Migrant stock by origin (2013)

Top 5 countries or areas of origin	Total
Poland	76 184
Sweden	53 082
Germany	30 819
Denmark	26 235
Lithuania	25 623
Total	211 943

This interregional migration is but expected for a number of reasons. First, these countries are situated within the Eurozone. Considering the geographical proximity of these countries with each other, the inflows and outflows of people is a normal migration behavioral pattern. Figure 2 below showing the Eurozone map shows how geographical proximity can be a factor to facilitate migration.



Figure 2. Map of Europe

Secondly, the free mobility of people, goods, services, ideas and investment within the European Union, of which all the five sending countries are a member of, all the more facilitate migration as a natural consequence and economic incidence of the union. This liberalization in the movement of labour makes migration an almost natural or normal occurrence within Europe.

This phenomenon further bolsters affirmation of the basic premise of the World System theory that migration is a structural consequence of an expanding global political economy. According to Wanner (2002) there are four explanatory factors for migration in Europe: (1) historical bonds, which have formed during e.g. the colonial era or for East Europe as political alliances, (2) geographic proximity, which is especially important in the Mediterranean countries and in Scandinavia, (3) a common language, and (4) immigration policy, which defines how open the country is for immigration.

If one looks into the first explanatory factor, one could easily see the historical, economic, political, diplomatic, and cultural connections for instance between and among Norway, Denmark and Sweden. If you look at these Nordic or Scandinavian countries, they are like brothers. Like brothers they get along well and have similarities but are their own individuals too. Norway and Denmark were traditionally the most closely aligned with each other. This is less noticeable for each passing decade, though. Norway and Denmark were allied (with Norway basically a Danish province) from the late Middle Ages until 1814, and the twin countries were at war with Sweden off and on for centuries. The relationship between Danes and Norwegians is mostly cordial, and the two countries have traditionally shared an envy for big brother Sweden. Lately however this pattern is fading. Norway has become the richest country, so the envy is shifting. On the other hand, trade between Norway and Sweden is booming due to the long shared border and

Norwegian demand for workers, goods and services provided by the handily neighboring Sweden. (<https://www.quora.com/What-are-the-relationships-like-between-Norway-Denmark-Sweden-and-Finland-Is-any-one-relationship-better-or-stronger-among-these>).

As regards Denmark, Norway and Sweden, there exists what we call intranordic migration. This phenomenon plays an important role in maintaining the coherence of the Nordic Region, and despite increased migration from and to countries beyond the Nordic Region, intra-Nordic migration remains a significant part of the overall migration flows.

In the case of Poland, Germany and Lithuania, their common denominators are their cultural similarities, geographical proximity as well as the existence of common belongingness in the European Union.

It is interesting to note that the Poles are the dominant immigrant minority in Norway. Their great number started to flock to Norway during the 1980 where Poles were welcomed as political refugees. Later such migration evolved into more of a labour character. As research has shown, Polish post-accession migration to Norway has been related to restructuring of labour intensive sector such as construction, and increasing informalisation and casualisation of labour relations that have traditionally been strongly regulated in Norway. A strict separation between standard and atypical forms of employment is characteristic for Norwegian labour market. Polish workers find employment mainly in two niche sectors – constructing and cleaning. These Polish workers which came to Norway in great numbers performed the migrants work, so to say. The dual labor market or segmented market theory explains this phenomenon as a natural incidence of the structure of the labor market of a developed country such as Norway, which is inevitably segmented into two---the primary sector (capital intensive, high-skilled labour) and secondary sector (labour-intensive, low-skilled labour). The need for low-

skilled workers in industries of a developed country calls for additional manpower from other countries. These migrant jobs which offer less opportunity for social mobility are shunned by the local population. Hence, these job vacancies are usually filled up by migrants not only from Poland but also from other countries such as Bangladesh, Pakistan and Vietnam.

B.2. Migrant Stock by Destination

As shown in Table 3 below, Norwegians' top destinations include two (2) countries in the Nordic/Scandinavian region namely Sweden and Denmark; two (2) countries in Europe (United Kingdom with Northern Ireland and Spain) and another country from the North American continent (the United States of America). What could be the reasons behind these migration decisions? Apparently, the Norwegians' immigration to Sweden and Denmark is just a normal occurrence of the "intranordic migration" as previously explained in this paper. The prior and current historical, cultural, political, economic and military cooperation between these three countries as well as their geographical proximity make the movement of people an almost natural thing for them.

Table 3

Migrant stock by destination (2013)

Top 5 countries or areas of destination	Total
Sweden	43 752
United States of America	30 672
Denmark	19 767
Spain	19 099
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	17 059
Total	130 340

The Cultural Theory of migration conveniently explains these patterns of intra-migration between and among Nordic countries such as Norway, Sweden and Denmark as a consequence of their cultural proximity. Cultural proximity is supposed to reduce the distance between foreigners and natives (Vourc'h et al., 1999). There is moreover a widespread assumption that the more distant the culture of the migrant is from the culture of the host country the more problems there will be (Wrench, 1999).

In the case of the migration to the United States, United Kingdom/Northern Ireland, and Spain the reason behind the Norwegians' migration may not be necessarily an economic necessity. It does not seem reasonable to assume that the emigration from Norway to these countries is one of economic necessity. For one thing, wealth in Norway is more evenly distributed than most countries and the social conditions on the whole are comparatively satisfactory. In this context, it can be assumed that when a Norwegian emigrates, it is not because his country has no use for him, or because it denies him food but because he finds it difficult at home to realize his desire and get into the strong upward current in society. And perhaps, a change of place of work, and a desire to search for one's destiny may as well be the driving force behind it.

As regards the outmigration of Norwegians to the United States of America, it is well to note that Norwegians have been immigrating to the United States even during the early 17th and 18th centuries. According to scholar Elazar, "It was the Norwegian diaspora in the United States which initiated the separation of Norway from Sweden, which led to Norwegian independence in 1905." The Norwegian-American community overwhelmingly favored independence of Norway from Sweden, and collecting money for Norwegian rifle clubs in case the conflict should become violent. Hence, this historical connection as well as the already existing Norwegian migrant

communities in the US may as well serve a good explanation why Norwegians tend to favour the USA as among its top migration destination.

B.3. Refugee Population by Country of Origin

Norway is home to some refugees, notably from Somalia, Eritrea, Afghanistan and Iraq. Of these four countries, Somalia appeared to have the greatest number with 8, 870 as shown in Table 4 below.

Table 4

Refugee population by origin (end 2012)

Top 5 countries or areas of origin	Total
Somalia	8 870
Eritrea	7 129
Afghanistan	5 984
Iraq	5 727
Total	27 710

All these refugee sending countries have one thing in common: their countries are ravaged either by civil war or political instability. The push-and-pull factor theory explains that war and persecutions (political or religious) can act as push factor for people in the ravaged areas to immigrate for their safety. These refugees from Somalia, Afghanistan and Iraq were commonly the internally displaced persons (known as IDP in migration parlance) who are seeking refuge to other countries for their safety and their family.

Of these, Somalia is of particular interest. Somalia is an African country which has faced lawlessness and strife during its long-decade civil war. New migrants are making their way to places like Europe and one of the hot

destination hubs of Somali refugees is Norway. The EU, Norway and Switzerland are home to 14% of the world's Somali migrant population. Since 2008, these countries have received nearly 140,000 asylum applications from Somalis, according to the EU's statistical agency Eurostat. The annual flow of Somali asylum seekers has held relatively steady since this benchmark year, but their destination countries within Europe have changed.

C. Migrant Stock in Terms of Gender

Table 5 below shows the migration stock of Norway in terms of gender. As shown in the table, it is apparent that there are more male migrants than female migrants in both 1990 and 2013.

Table 5 Migrant Stock of Norway by Gender and Age

	1990			2000			2013		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
0-4	2 799	2 541	5 340	3 502	3 478	6 980	6 474	6 525	12 999
5-9	4 857	4 694	9 551	6 556	6 402	12 958	13 027	12 911	25 938
10-14	4 659	4 770	9 429	8 101	7 792	15 893	15 134	14 628	29 762
15-19	5 407	5 431	10 838	9 291	9 450	18 741	18 091	17 378	35 469
20-24	9 675	8 880	18 555	11 936	13 072	25 008	27 539	27 488	55 027
25-29	14 394	12 056	26 450	15 831	17 405	33 236	43 804	44 332	88 136
30-34	13 657	11 188	24 845	18 650	18 648	37 298	47 761	45 487	93 248
35-39	11 318	9 126	20 444	18 797	17 407	36 204	43 429	39 191	82 620
40-44	10 007	8 015	18 022	15 300	13 855	29 155	38 970	33 350	72 320
45-49	7 731	6 556	14 287	11 869	10 690	22 559	33 602	27 631	61 233
50-54	4 503	4 338	8 841	9 401	8 436	17 837	24 991	20 558	45 549
55-59	3 239	3 550	6 789	7 282	6 921	14 203	17 080	14 460	31 540
60-64	2 694	3 650	6 344	4 008	4 807	8 815	11 037	10 922	21 959
65+	5 715	9 764	15 479	7 742	12 008	19 750	17 792	20 916	38 708
Total	100 655	94 559	195 214	148 266	150 371	298 637	358 731	335 777	694 508

However, while male migrants are a bit greater in number, the difference is almost minimal. Women migrants are greater in number than male migrants in 2000. The number seems to vacillate through the years, but women are catching with men in terms of employment opportunities in Norway as a result of feminization of workforce in industries and different sectors of the economy.

D. GDP Per Capita vis-à-vis Net Migration Rate of Norway

The GDP per capita of Norway from 1950-2010 shows an upward trend as shown in Figure 3 below (likewise shown tabular form in Appendix A):

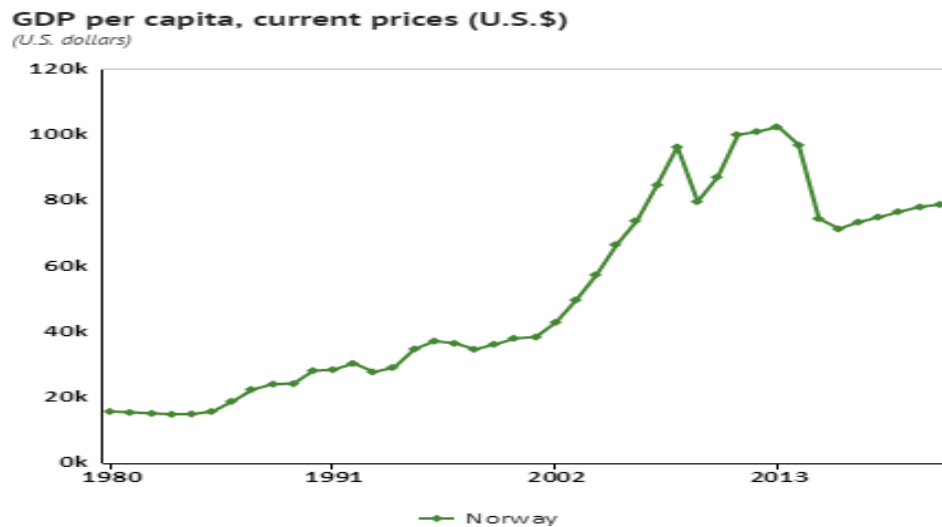


Figure 3 GDP Per Capita of Norway

Similarly, the net migration rate of Norway likewise shows an upward and constantly increasing trend since the 1960s.

It can be commented that there appears a relationship between the growth of GDP per capita and the net migration rate of Norway, that is to say, an increase in GDP per capita carries with it an observable increase in its net

migration rate. The reason is that the high wage level in Norway in comparison to other countries in Europe as well as in the other parts of the world makes it as an attractive hub for human capital, both skilled and unskilled. This wage differential according to the Classical Economic Theory of Migration serves as a push or incentivizing factor for a migrant to work or stay in developed countries like Norway. The high GDP per capita of Norway facilitates immigration for sending countries towards Norway but does not necessarily affect or facilitate emigration of Norway towards other countries.

The Case of the Philippines

The Philippines is an emerging market and a developing economy. It is classified under the middle-income country category. The Philippines is an interesting subject of this analysis because apart from the fact that it is my country of origin, it has a culture of immigration and emigration. Table 7 shows the net migration of the Philippines from 190-2015. Apparently, there appears no data about the country's net migration rate from 1950 to 1960.

A. Net Migration Rate in the Philippines (1950-2015)

Table 6 below shows the net migration rate of the Philippines from 1950-2015. In the main, the Philippines can be considered more as a sending country than a receiving country. Translated in different expressions, the outflows of migrants in the Philippines are much higher than its inflows.

Table 6 Net Migration of the Philippines (1950-2015)

Selected Country	Net Migration Over Period												
	1950-1955	1955-1960	1960-1965	1965-1970	1970-1975	1975-1980	1980-1985	1985-1990	1990-1995	1995-2000	2000-2005	2005-2010	2010-2015

Philippines	0.0	0.0	0.0	-1.6	-1.2	-1.4	-0.7	-1.0	-1.5	-2.1	-2.7	-4.1	-1.4
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It can be gleaned from Table 7 that from 1950 to 1965, the Philippines has balanced migration rate as the net migration rate registered at 0.0. This period can be considered as a period of migration equilibrium,” so to say. From 1960 to 2015, the Philippines has been consistently more of a sending country. However, it can be noted that the figures of negative net migration oscillated from 1965-1990. There appear some fluctuations in the net migration rate as evidenced by the following figures: from -1.6 (1965-1970) to -1.2 (1970-1975), to -1.4 in 1980-1985.

From 1985 to 2010, the negative net migration rate was almost quadrupled from -1.0 in 1985 to -4.0 in 2010, which means that the outflows of migrants had steadily increased four times than it was in 1985-1990. This rather erratic migration pattern or trend in the Philippines is aptly captured in this graph (See Figure 4) below:

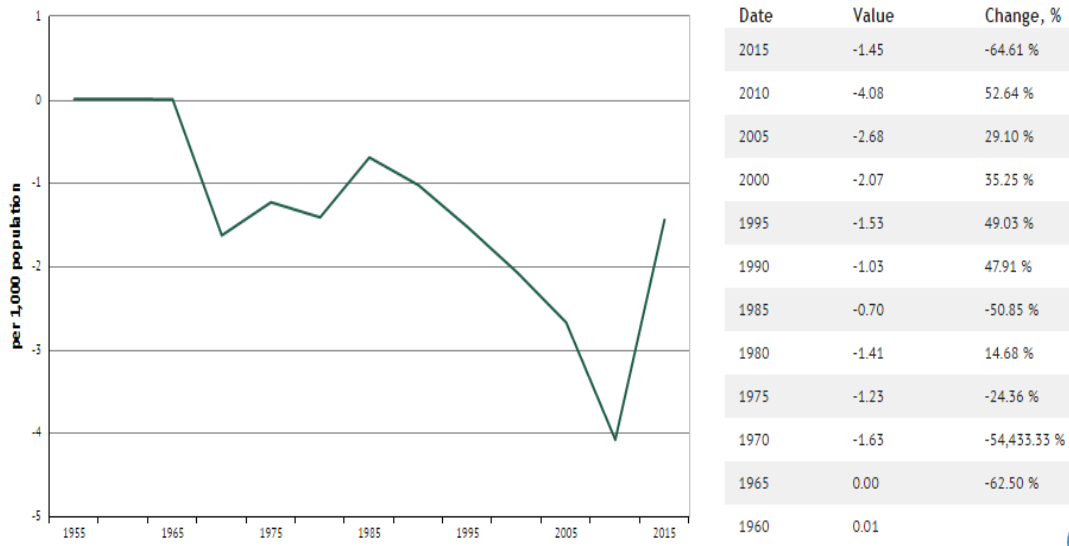


Figure 4. Net Migration Rate of the Philippines (1955-2015)

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